

# Gaithersburg Sustainability Summit

## *for Homeowners Associations*

Thursday, January 29, 2026  
Via Zoom



ENVIRONMENTAL  
FINANCE CENTER

# Agenda

- 6:30 - 6:35pm **Welcome**
- 6:35 – 6:50pm: **Overview: Sustainable Maryland Residential Action Framework**
- 6:50 – 7:20pm: **Spotlight: Two Green Teams in Practice** (Hyde Park II-B and Kentlands)
- 7:20 – 7:50pm: **Community Engagement – Multifaceted Programs, A Key to Sustainability Success** (City of Gaithersburg)
- 7:50 – 8:20pm: **Moving Forward: Supporting HOA Green Teams in the City** (Discussion)
- 8:20- 8:30pm: **Wrap Up /Next Steps**



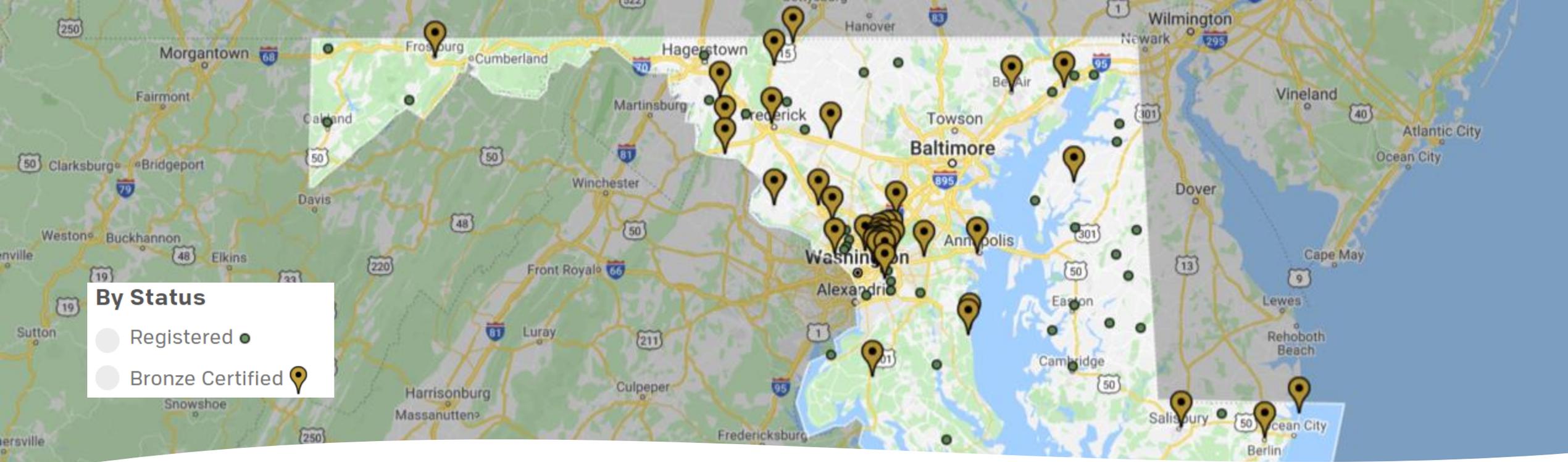
# Sustainable Maryland's Residential Action Framework

ENGAGING MARYLAND'S  
HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATIONS



ENVIRONMENTAL  
FINANCE CENTER





- A **Free** and **Voluntary** program for communities that want to go green and save green
- We help communities:
  - Choose a direction for their sustainability efforts
  - Improve access to resources
  - Share successes with other communities
  - Track progress towards and gain recognition for achieving goals



# SM Residential Action Framework

TAKING STEPS TOWARDS A MORE SUSTAINABLE FUTURE



# 1. Establish a Green Team

## Present to the HOA

- You can have a formally adopted Green Team or an informal volunteer group

## Build On Local Assets

- Engaged community members with their personal passion and/or professional expertise

## Recruit Members

- Partnerships with local businesses, schools, congregations, non-profits, public health, arts

## Collaborate with other jurisdictions

- Partner with local municipalities, and other neighboring communities



# 2. Review the SM Residential Action Menu

	A	B	C	D
16		<b>Stormwater Management</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Resources</b>
17	SM-1	Promote Stormwater Management Best Practices	Outreach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Stormwater 101   Gaithersburg   <a href="https://bit.ly/3gHCo14">https://bit.ly/3gHCo14</a></li> <li>- Stormwater Pollution Prevention   Gaithersburg   <a href="https://bit.ly/3Bft51z">https://bit.ly/3Bft51z</a></li> <li>- Types of Stormwater Management Facilities   Montgomery County   <a href="https://bit.ly/3JIHNqF">https://bit.ly/3JIHNqF</a></li> <li>- Rainscapes Reward Program   Gaithersburg   <a href="https://bit.ly/3Hp6Okp">https://bit.ly/3Hp6Okp</a></li> </ul>
18	SM-2	Promote Stormwater Rebate Program Education and Outreach	Outreach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Rainscapes Reward Program   Gaithersburg   <a href="https://bit.ly/3Hp6Okp">https://bit.ly/3Hp6Okp</a></li> </ul>
19	SM-3	Schedule Regular Community Cleanup Days	Event	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- How to Organize &amp; Lead Your Clean Up   Alice Ferguson Foundation   <a href="https://bit.ly/3HkJiEY">https://bit.ly/3HkJiEY</a></li> <li>- Community Clean Up Event Support   Gaithersburg   <a href="https://bit.ly/3rIWMus">https://bit.ly/3rIWMus</a></li> <li>- City Cleanup Liability Release Form   <a href="https://bit.ly/3rjhZ8m">https://bit.ly/3rjhZ8m</a></li> <li>- Outreach and Restoration grant   Chesapeake Bay Trust   <a href="https://bit.ly/3HwaZek">https://bit.ly/3HwaZek</a></li> <li>- Community Engagement Mini-grant   Chesapeake Bay Trust   <a href="https://bit.ly/3ojLvJe">https://bit.ly/3ojLvJe</a></li> </ul>
20	SM-4	Storm Drain Stenciling	Event	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Storm Drain Stenciling   Chesapeake Bay Foundation   <a href="https://bit.ly/3J23WKJ">https://bit.ly/3J23WKJ</a></li> <li>- Storm Drain Art Project   Gaithersburg   <a href="https://bit.ly/3JcTtMD">https://bit.ly/3JcTtMD</a></li> <li>- Keep Montgomery County Beautiful Storm Drain Marking Program   Montgomery County   <a href="https://bit.ly/3ohqBKK">https://bit.ly/3ohqBKK</a></li> <li>- Storm Drain Stenciling Action Project   MD Department of Natural Resources   <a href="https://bit.ly/3okXMx9">https://bit.ly/3okXMx9</a></li> <li>- Outreach and Restoration grant   Chesapeake Bay Trust   <a href="https://bit.ly/3HwaZek">https://bit.ly/3HwaZek</a></li> <li>- Community Engagement Mini-grant   Chesapeake Bay Trust   <a href="https://bit.ly/3ojLvJe">https://bit.ly/3ojLvJe</a></li> </ul>
21	SM-5	Adopt-A-Stream	Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Adopt-a-Stream   Alice Ferguson Foundation   <a href="https://bit.ly/3ukdc8S">https://bit.ly/3ukdc8S</a></li> <li>- Adopt-a-Stream Team Leader   Montgomery County Volunteer Center   <a href="https://bit.ly/3L12MRo">https://bit.ly/3L12MRo</a></li> <li>- Outreach and Restoration grant   Chesapeake Bay Trust   <a href="https://bit.ly/3HwaZek">https://bit.ly/3HwaZek</a></li> <li>- Community Engagement Mini-grant   Chesapeake Bay Trust   <a href="https://bit.ly/3ojLvJe">https://bit.ly/3ojLvJe</a></li> <li>- Environmental Volunteer Opportunities   Gaithersburg   <a href="https://bit.ly/3rIWMus">https://bit.ly/3rIWMus</a></li> <li>- City Cleanup Liability Form   Gaithersburg   <a href="https://bit.ly/3rjhZ8m">https://bit.ly/3rjhZ8m</a></li> </ul>
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Rainscapes Reward Program   Gaithersburg   <a href="https://bit.ly/3Hp6Okp">https://bit.ly/3Hp6Okp</a></li> </ul>

# 2. Review the SM Residential Action Menu

## ACTION CATEGORIES



Community Action



Stormwater Management



Eco-Friendly Landscaping



Enhancing Wildlife Habitat



Health & Well-Being



Waste Reduction

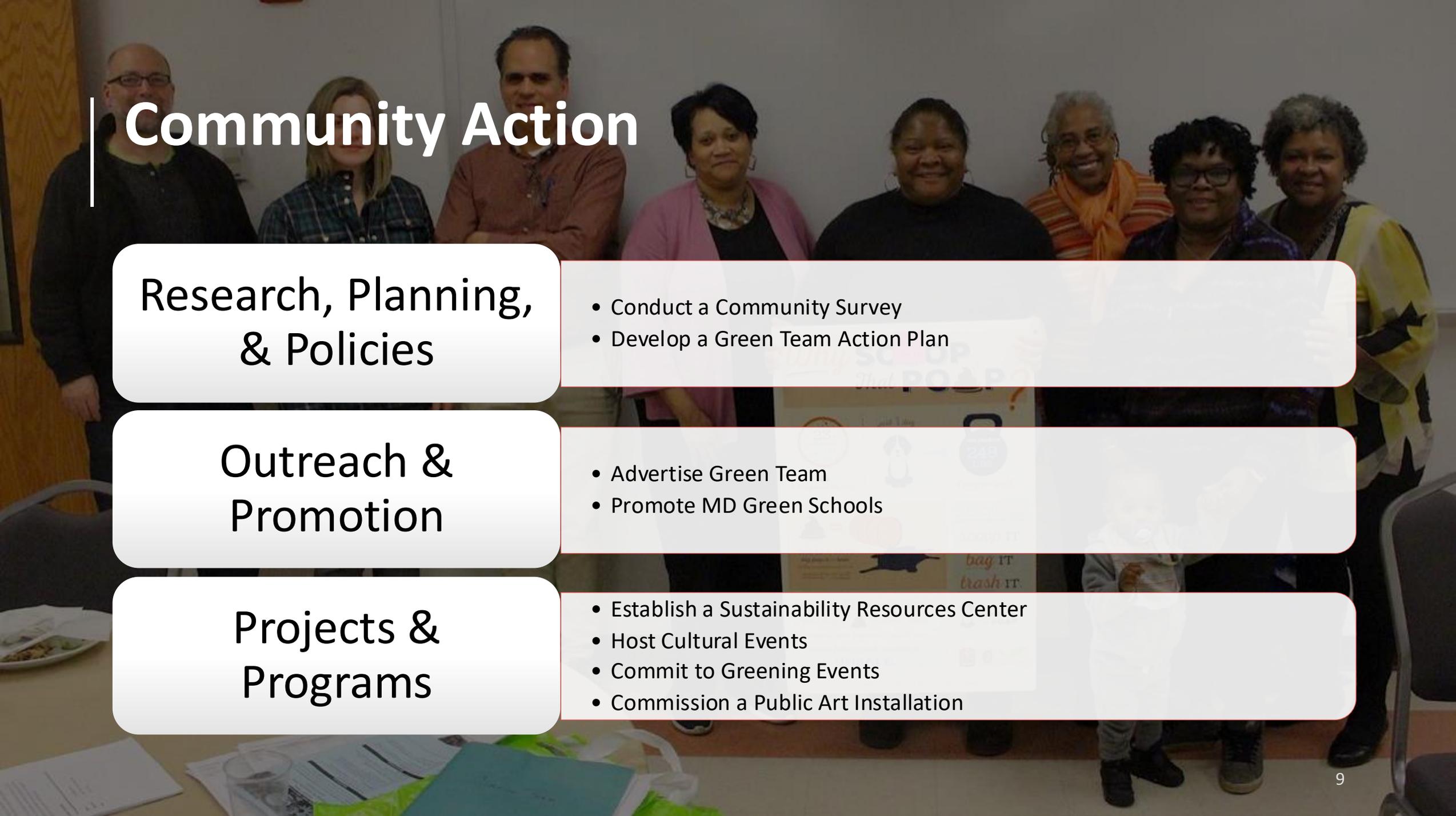


Clean & Renewable Energy



Transportation

# Community Action

A group of nine diverse people, including men and women of various ethnicities, are standing behind a table. They are smiling and looking towards the camera. On the table in front of them is a sign that says 'SCOOP UP The POOP!' with illustrations of a dog, a cat, and a person. There are also some papers and a green bag on the table.

## Research, Planning, & Policies

- Conduct a Community Survey
- Develop a Green Team Action Plan

## Outreach & Promotion

- Advertise Green Team
- Promote MD Green Schools

## Projects & Programs

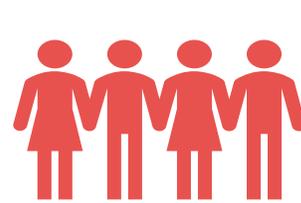
- Establish a Sustainability Resources Center
- Host Cultural Events
- Commit to Greening Events
- Commission a Public Art Installation

# 3. Explore Potential Community Actions

## Questions to keep in mind

1. What are our community's priorities and goals?
2. Are there any known issues?
3. What actions have already been initiated/completed?
4. Where are there areas of opportunity?
5. Who are the members of the community?
6. What do we control?
7. What local assets and resources can we build on?

## Community Assets



Community  
Members



Property



Policies



Outreach &  
Communication



Services &  
Procurement

# 4. Develop a Green Team Action Plan



# 4. Develop a Green Team Action Plan

## SAMPLE ACTION PLANS

### Summit Hall Reserve HOA GREEN TEAM ACTION PLAN 2022-2025

In 2021 Summit Hall Reserve HOA worked with the Environmental Finance Center (EFC) at the University of Maryland and its Sustainable Maryland (SM) program to adopt the SM Residential Action Framework. Sponsored by the Chesapeake Bay Trust with support from the City of Gaithersburg, this framework guides homeowners' and civic associations through a process that increases their awareness of natural resources and watershed protection issues, educates their residents on the importance of community-based sustainability efforts, and encourages action.

Over the course of a year, the EFC project team led community members through a process of identifying and prioritizing shared areas of need, strategies for enhancing collective action, and opportunities for developing projects culminating in a Green Team Action Plan.

The Summit Hall Reserve Green Team Action plan is a living document that establishes priority actions for the next three years and serves as a tool for Green Team members to stay organized and track progress over time.



#### HIGHLIGHTS

##### ESTABLISHED

##### LOCATION

Cobbler Place and Fairbanks Drive, Gaithersburg, MD

##### POPULATION

82 households  
~175 residents

##### GREEN TEAM MEMBERS

Quinn Odorizzi, Property Manager  
Jon Sundy, Board member  
Jon Griffin, Board member

##### GREEN TEAM CONTACT

Quinn Odorizzi, Property Manager  
[QOdorizzi@omc-management.com](mailto:QOdorizzi@omc-management.com)

##### PARTNERS

Sustainable Maryland  
Environmental Finance Center  
City of Gaithersburg  
Chesapeake Bay Trust



### COMMUNITY ACTION

#### Establish a Green Team

**Action Leads:**  
**Target Year:** Spring 2022  
**Estimated Cost and Resource Needs:**  
**Potential Partners:**  
**Potential Resources:**

- SM Framework presentation | Sustainable Maryland
- Outreach and Restoration grant | Chesapeake Bay Trust | <https://bit.ly/3HwaZek>
- Community Engagement Mini-grant | Chesapeake Bay Trust | <https://bit.ly/3ojLvJe>

**Progress and Implementation Notes:**  
Community participants agreed that a Green Team would be a useful addition to the community, as a sub-committee of the Board. They agreed to pass a formal designation of a Green Team, and will use the Diamond Farms resolution as a template.



#### Develop a Green Team Action Plan

**Action Leads:**  
**Target Year:** Spring 2022  
**Estimated Cost and Resource Needs:**  
**Potential Partners:**  
**Potential Resources:**

- SM Green Team Action Plan Template | Sustainable Maryland |
- Outreach and Restoration grant | Chesapeake Bay Trust | <https://bit.ly/3HwaZek>
- Community Engagement Mini-grant (for executing water-related projects) | Chesapeake Bay Trust | <https://bit.ly/3ojLvJe>
- Advocacy & Stewardship Handbook | Audubon Naturalist Society | <https://bit.ly/3sfWzZ0>
- Homeowner's Guide to Sustainability | Angi | <https://bit.ly/3H2adqq>
- Environment | Community Associations | <https://bit.ly/35izug8>

**Progress and Implementation Notes:**  
SM will provide a draft action plan based on community meetings.

2



# Local Environmental Groups & Green Initiatives

(City of Gaithersburg, Maryland)

## 5. Take Action

- Coordinate with Board leadership, property managers, and local partners
- Tap into local resources
- Take a mix of easier short-term and more challenging long-term actions
- Celebrate wins big and small



*The use of chemical pesticides and fertilizers poses a risk to environmental health. How could using these products on a small scale contribute to a large-scale problem, and why should you care?*

### What is the New Law?

Montgomery County's pesticide law restricts the use of "weed and feed" products and certain pesticides on private lawns, playgrounds, mulched recreation areas, and childcare facilities. The law aims to protect public health and minimize the potential pesticide hazard to people and the environment. Raising awareness and reducing pesticide use for cosmetic purposes is the goal. The law does not ban the sale of these products, which means you will still see restricted pesticides for sale. However, stores must place signage next to pesticides indicating which products are included in the ban. The law restricts most synthetic pesticides; organic pesticides are not affected. The City of Gaithersburg opted into the County's organic lawn care law effective December 2020.

### What's The Deal with Chemical Lawn Care Products?

Popular chemical lawn care products can contain ingredients harmful to both people and the environment. Glyphosate is one of these. Herbicides with glyphosate are useful for removing weeds but can have adverse side effects on our health, so much so that the World Health Organization has deemed the chemical a probable human carcinogen. Glyphosate bioaccumulates in nature, causing long-term damage to the environment. Through

bioaccumulation, man-made chemicals find their way into an organism's diet by seeping into its habitat and eventually into its food supply. Spraying glyphosate herbicide on plants will disrupt the digestive systems of bees and could contribute to the collapse of an entire honeybee colony. Rain ultimately washes the chemical down into streams and then the ocean, disrupting the reproductive cycles of fish. Thus the chemical continues to cause harm long after its usefulness on land.

Synthetic fertilizers also pose a threat and can have long-term consequences on our environment. Developed with exactly one goal in mind, these fertilizers can grow plants quickly, and they do this job well. But despite having exactly what a plant needs to grow quickly, these fertilizer products do not always give a plant what it needs to grow healthy. Most synthetic fertilizers only contain a mixture of the limited nutrients of nitrogen, phosphorus, or potassium. As a result, soil often lacks other essential nutrients such as calcium, magnesium, and sulfur, causing plants to develop weak roots and stems.

Synthetic fertilizers also contribute to topsoil depletion. Like any other natural resource, topsoil is finite, meaning it will run out if not preserved. Estimates predict that at our current rate, we will



# 6. Connect with Peer Communities

## BUILDING A STRONG NETWORK OF SUSTAINABILITY CHAMPIONS



Join Sustainable Maryland for a  
Virtual Connection Hour  
Thursday, March 3, 4:30-5:30pm



Dear Sustainable Maryland-ers,

Spring is on the horizon (with snow drops and daffodils and crocuses making an appearance this week), which made us realize it's been awhile since we've checked in with you.

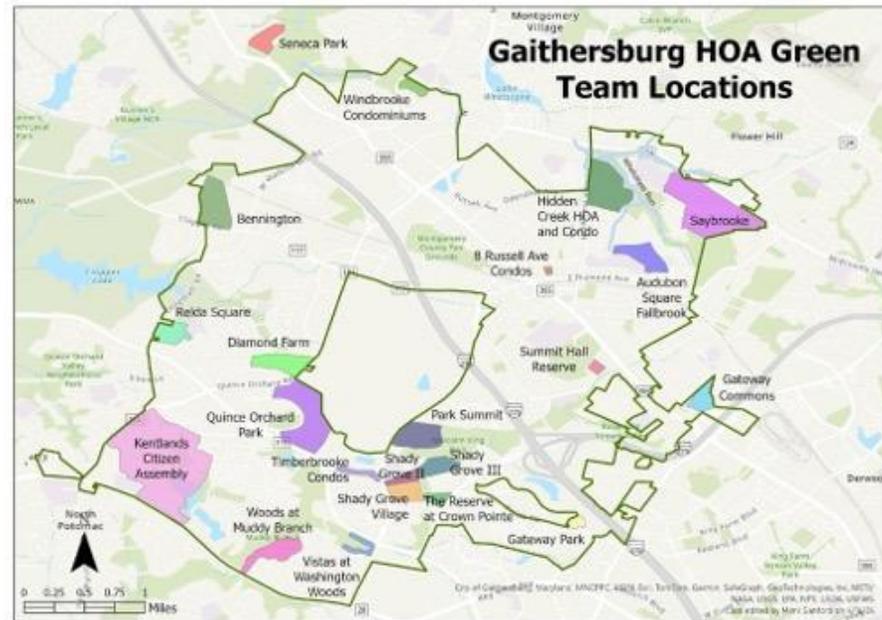
Please join the SM Team today (Thursday, March 3), from 4:30-5:30pm, for a Virtual Connection Hour, and share what's inspiring or concerning you these days.

We want to know:

- what's on your mind?
- how we can help you?
- what you are planning in your community?

And we'll update you on the Sustainable Maryland funding bill (HB100/SB14) that is making it's way through the Maryland General Assembly this month, and how you can help make it a reality.

All are welcome - Green Team members, local elected officials, government staff, state and nonprofit representatives, and engaged citizens.



### 2nd Gaithersburg Homeowners/Civic Association Sustainability Summit

#### AGENDA

Location: Virtual - ZOOM: <https://umd.zoom.us/j/94997369475>  
Date: Thursday, March 24, 2022, 6:30-8:30pm

- 6:30 - 6:40pm: **Welcome from the City of Gaithersburg**  
Speaker: Mayor Jud Ashman
- 6:40 - 7:55pm: **Overview: Sustainable Maryland Residential Action Framework**  
Speaker: Mike Hunninghake, Sustainable Maryland
- 6:55 - 7:25pm: **Spotlight: A Green Team in Practice**  
Speakers: Susan Pourian (Chair, Parkside Green - Parkside HOA, Bethesda) and Alex Stavitzky-Zeinuddin (Green Team Chair, Kentlands Go Green, Kentlands Citizens Assembly)
- 7:25 - 7:30pm: **Stretch Break**
- 7:30 - 7:50pm: **Building a Strong Network of Sustainability Champions**  
Breakout Rooms Discussions
- 7:50 - 8:10pm: **Supporting Sustainability through Community-Driven Stormwater Action**  
Speaker: Michael Weyand, Watershed Restoration Specialist, City of Gaithersburg
- 8:10 - 8:25pm: **Moving Forward: Expanding Green Teams in Gaithersburg**  
Speaker: Natalia Sanchez, Sustainable Maryland
- 8:25 - 8:30pm: **Wrap Up /Next Steps**



# 7. Reflect and Revisit the Process

- Track and measure progress towards Green Team Action Plan implementation
  - Communicate progress to Board leadership and community residents
- Update your Action Plan at least every three to five years
  - Survey community members to identify shifting priorities
  - Set aside time for a Green Team retreat to discuss progress and next steps
  - Adopt lessons learned from peer-to-peer community convenings
- Continue growing your Green Team
  - Recruit additional Green Team members



# Taking Steps Towards a More Sustainable Future

## Get Involved

### Residential Associations

- Share this video with your Board and propose adopting the SM Residential Action Framework
- Download the SM Residential Action Menu
- Partner with neighboring communities
- Pursue funding and technical assistance opportunities

### Counties and Cities

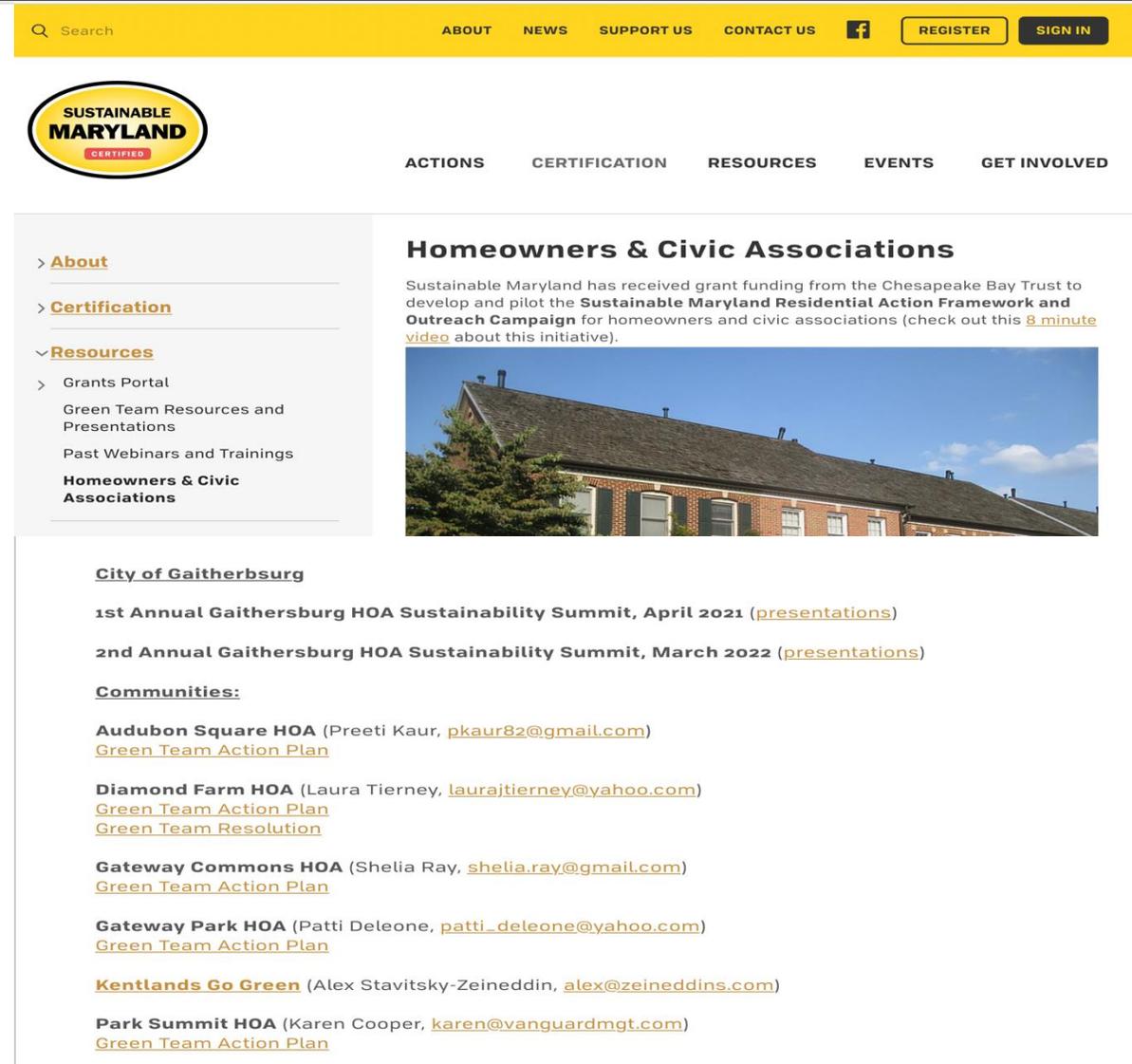
- Promote the SM Residential Action Framework to community associations
- Partner with Sustainable Maryland to launch a targeted outreach campaign
- Convene a Sustainability Summit for HOAs and Civic Associations

## SM Residential Action Framework



# Sustainable MD HOA Resource Page

- Check out the HOA Sustainability Resource Page on the SM website
  - Names of HOA Green Teams, with contact details in Gaithersburg and Prince George's County
  - Copies of Sustainability Action Plans
  - Copies of Residential Action Framework template (Action Menu)
  - <https://sustainablemaryland.com/resources/homeowners-associations>

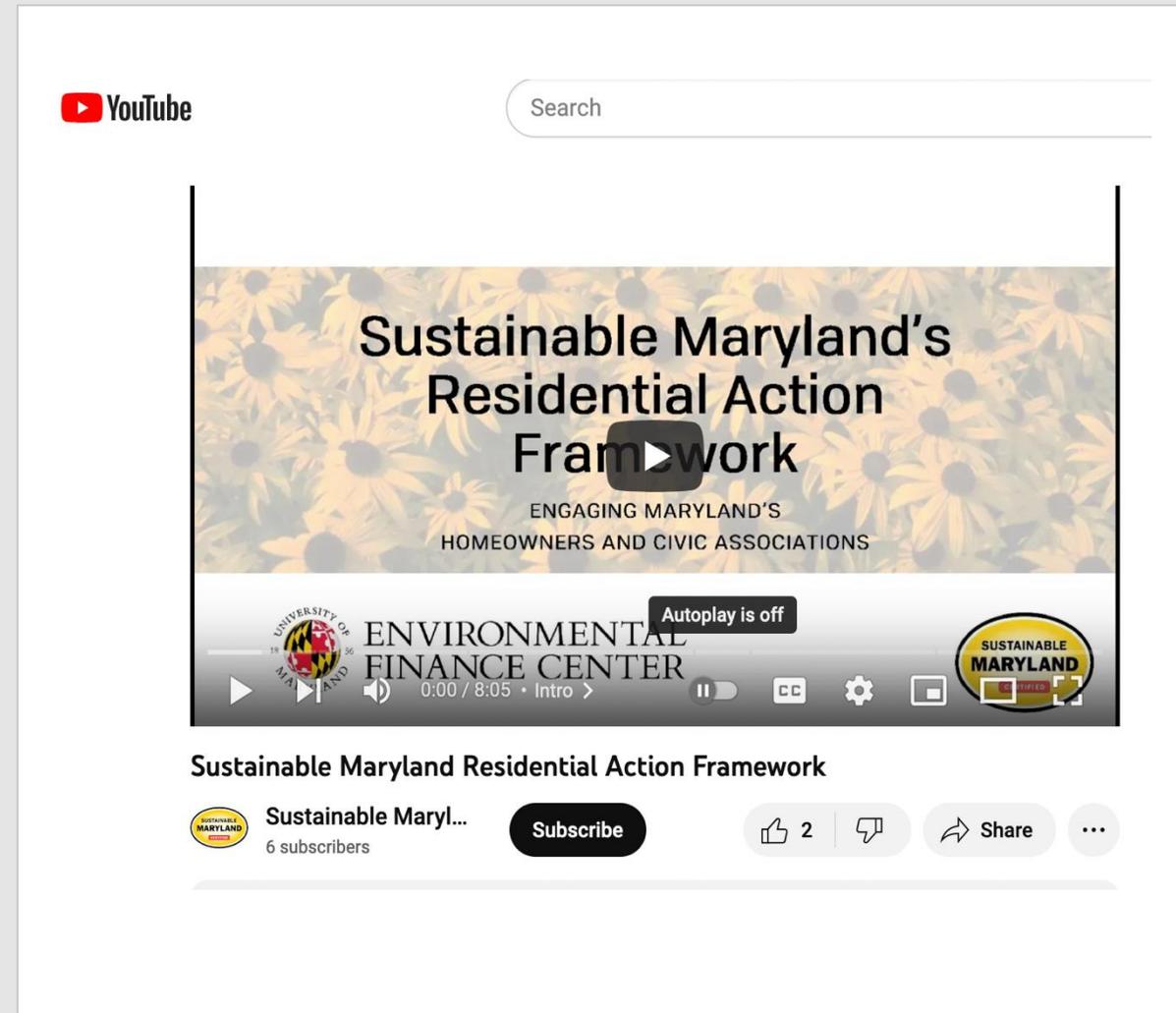


The screenshot shows the Sustainable Maryland website. The top navigation bar is yellow with a search icon and links for ABOUT, NEWS, SUPPORT US, CONTACT US, a Facebook icon, REGISTER, and SIGN IN. Below the navigation bar is the Sustainable Maryland logo, which is an oval with 'SUSTAINABLE MARYLAND' and 'CERTIFIED' inside. The main content area has a left sidebar with a menu: > About, > Certification, > Resources (expanded), > Grants Portal, Green Team Resources and Presentations, Past Webinars and Trainings, and Homeowners & Civic Associations. The main content area features a section titled 'Homeowners & Civic Associations' with a sub-header 'Homeowners & Civic Associations'. Below the sub-header is a paragraph of text: 'Sustainable Maryland has received grant funding from the Chesapeake Bay Trust to develop and pilot the Sustainable Maryland Residential Action Framework and Outreach Campaign for homeowners and civic associations (check out this 8 minute video about this initiative)'. Below the text is a photograph of a brick house with a gabled roof. Below the photograph is a list of HOA Green Teams and their contact information:

- City of Gaithersburg**
  - 1st Annual Gaithersburg HOA Sustainability Summit, April 2021 ([presentations](#))
  - 2nd Annual Gaithersburg HOA Sustainability Summit, March 2022 ([presentations](#))
- Communities:**
  - Audubon Square HOA** (Preeti Kaur, [pkaur82@gmail.com](mailto:pkaur82@gmail.com))  
[Green Team Action Plan](#)
  - Diamond Farm HOA** (Laura Tierney, [laurajtierney@yahoo.com](mailto:laurajtierney@yahoo.com))  
[Green Team Action Plan](#)  
[Green Team Resolution](#)
  - Gateway Commons HOA** (Shelia Ray, [shelia.ray@gmail.com](mailto:shelia.ray@gmail.com))  
[Green Team Action Plan](#)
  - Gateway Park HOA** (Patti Deleone, [patti\\_deleone@yahoo.com](mailto:patti_deleone@yahoo.com))  
[Green Team Action Plan](#)
  - Kentlands Go Green** (Alex Stavitsky-Zeineddin, [alex@zeineddins.com](mailto:alex@zeineddins.com))
  - Park Summit HOA** (Karen Cooper, [karen@vanguardmgt.com](mailto:karen@vanguardmgt.com))  
[Green Team Action Plan](#)

# Sustainable Maryland HOA Video

- **Check out the HOA Residential Action Framework Video**
  - An 8-minute overview of the HOA Green Team/Action Plan Framework
  - An excellent introduction for Board members and property managers



# Spotlight: Two Green Teams in Practice

## Developing the Action

### Plan:

- Patricia Maloney, Hyde Park II-B

## Implementing the Action

### Plan:

- Alex Stavitsky-Zeineddin and Stephanie Vierra, Kentlands Go Green



# Hyde Park II-B Going Green

# Overview

- **Built in 1975**
- **58 units across four buildings**
- **Share space with two other communities**
- **Community backs onto Walker Run**



# Getting Started

## **Board of Directors:**

Elise Batchev, Vice-President

Evvie Papoulias, Secretary

Patricia Maloney, President

Heather Ward, Treasurer

# Who We Are and How We Began

We are a small community with a small board and a professional property management company

I am the board president, and subscribe to several City mailing lists, but Gaithersburg did not know about me. My predecessor received an email about the Green Team and shared it.

I made contact, and most of our board did a site visit with the Sustainable Maryland (SM) team in July—where we learned a lot

SM provided us with resources and drafts. We conferred and reached consensus over the next few months, and are ready to take the next steps



# We're an oasis in the middle of a busy suburb

For the last three years, we have rebuilt our board and community post-pandemic with some major actions

- New management
- Improved infrastructure (roof, siding, security)
- Improved grounds maintenance
- Time was right for next steps

The UMD Environmental Finance Team met with our board in July to visit the community and develop recommendations.

- Timeline is three to five years
- Several projects are low, no, or moderate costs
- Timeline is flexible and encourages community engagement





# Next Steps

**What We Learned and Plan to Do**



# Activities So Far

In 2025, we:

- Established our basic team and communicated with our residents
- Reviewed and modified the EFC recommendations
- Started our plan for 2026

We now have the core of our Green Team. We also are seeking to:

- Work further with Sustainable Maryland and the Green Bank to identify support for additional projects
- Spread the word with other COAs
- Investigate raincapes, raingardens, and bat boxes
- Explore winter road salt reduction

# Other Plans



- Eventually replacing all outdoor lighting with LED lights
- Conduct a tree canopy inventory (volunteer activity) and continue to maintain tree canopy; plant new trees and shrubs
- Install bat boxes and/or insect hotels
- Establish a mosquito control program

# Benefits for Our Community

- Projects involve the whole community—not a board-only project
- Some are visible (a mural, rainscapes) while others are not — but all will have an impact
- Projects will improve sustainability now and over time
- Potential to build community by involving neighbors
- Potential to understand the interplay of our built and natural environments as we develop these projects



# Thank you

Patricia Maloney, President

Hyde Park II-B Board of Directors

[hydepkpatricia2b@gmail.com](mailto:hydepkpatricia2b@gmail.com)





# Kentlands Green Team Report

*6th Annual City of Gaithersburg*  
**SUSTAINABILITY SUMMIT**  
for Homeowners and Civic Associations  
*January 29, 2026*

**Presented by:**  
Alex Zeineddin  
Stephanie Vierra

# Kentlands Green Team

- Founded in 2007
- Volunteer group in the Kentlands
- Mission is to promote sustainability & environmental stewardship through education, community involvement & practical initiatives
- Coordinate annual neighborhood Earth Day clean up, speakers, articles in *Town Crier*, daffodil plantings, plogging, environmental film screenings & more.
- Pollinator/Storm Water Garden grant



# Pollinator Garden Grant

- Kentlands Green Team was awarded a grant from the Chesapeake Bay Trust, to install a **Native Plant/Storm Water Garden** on KCA property behind the carriage house adjacent to the Arts Barn, Foundation & DPZ offices.
- Project initiated by & driven by Green Team over many months, with support from Kentlands Citizens Assembly (KCA) & other partners.
- Green Team will work with KCA & partners to implement project in 2026.



# Native Plant/Storm Water Garden Goals

- Create an inviting space & educational garden planted with Maryland native plant species that also manages storm water in our walkable community.
- Central & accessible location lends itself to having the garden be viewed & used by a diverse group of people.
- Rain barrel & educational sign will explain to passersby that they are seeing a variety of native species which will reduce runoff & tackle storm water issues affecting Montgomery County & Kentlands specifically.



Top to bottom: Kentlands Arts Barn, Kentlands Mansion

# Garden Site



Aerial view of Garden site

# Planned Activities with Garden Partners

## Programs to be developed include:

- Quarterly educational talks
- Workshops on native plants selections
- Best storm water practices in gardening
- Information for people to access Gaithersburg & Montgomery County grants to plant & design native gardens & manage storm water in their own yards

## Partners include:

- Watershed non-profit Muddy Branch Alliance
- City of Gaithersburg's non-profit GPARC
- Kentlands Community Foundation
- Gaithersburg's Parks and Recreation
- Kentlands Garden Club
- City of Gaithersburg

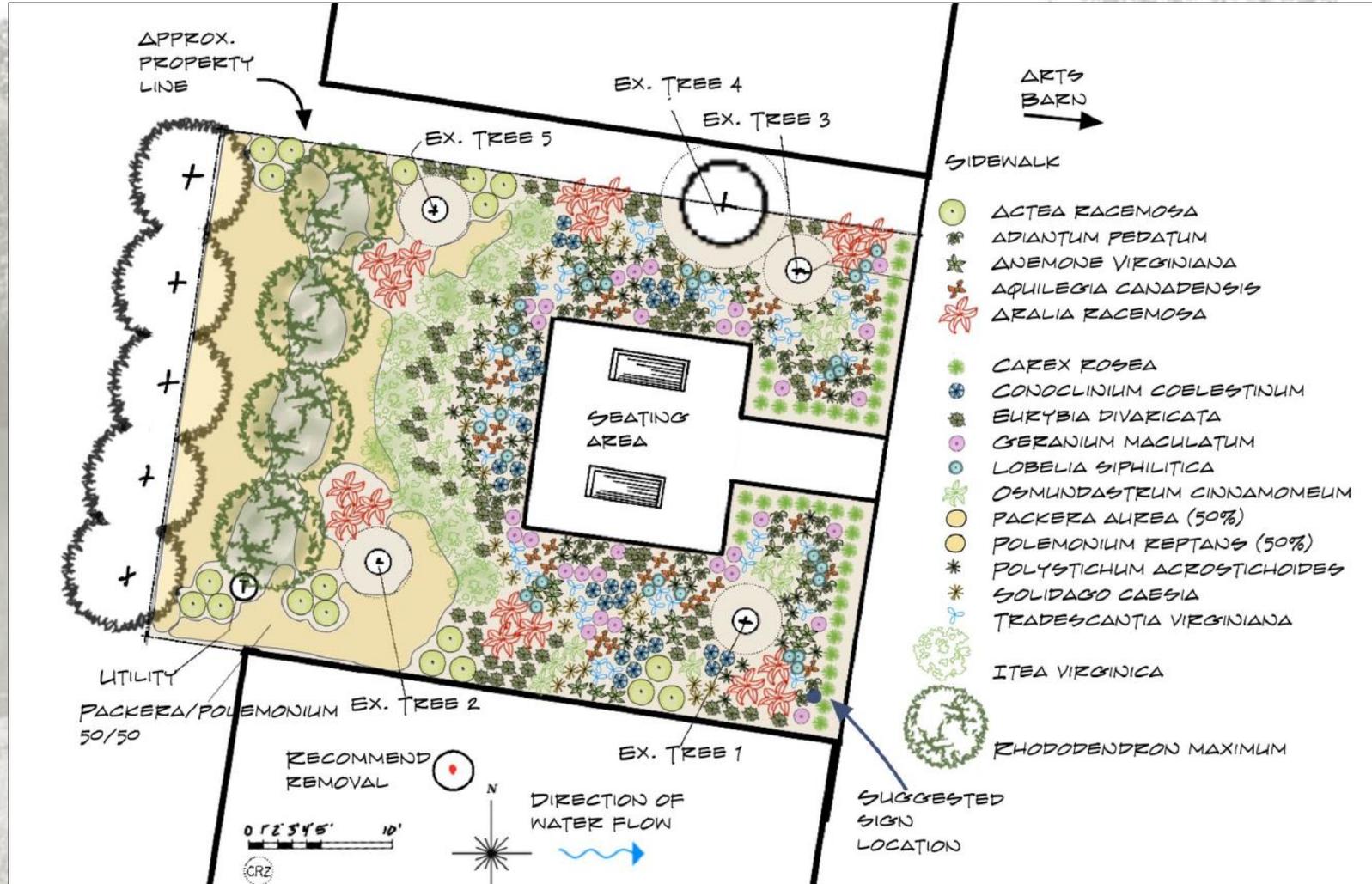


# Garden Design

- Reimagined to showcase a layered “soft landing” beneath existing tree canopy while improving storm water management for area & reducing annual mulching requirements using:
  - Native ferns
  - Flowering herbaceous groundcovers
  - Shrubs
- Attract native birds & insects, which will enhance the local ecosystem.
- Serve as inspiration for residents & local community members to consider replacing non-native landscaping with natives while helping to managing storm water on their own property.



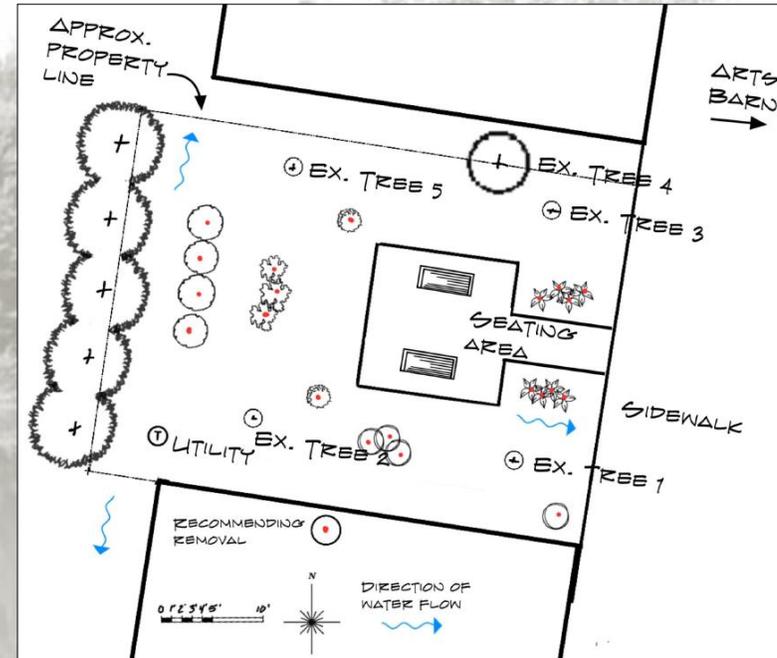
# Garden Design



Garden design plan. Image courtesy of Native by Design

# Key Message of Garden

- Learn how to design & use Native Plant/Storm Water elements in your own yard by visiting Garden.
- Grants available to do the same in your own yard!
- Enjoy the Garden by resting under trees, observing native plants & fauna & reading about different plants & water control elements used.
- Keep an eye on the garden space & watch it grow in the coming months!



Garden site plan.

Image courtesy of Native by Design

# Green Team

To learn more about the Garden project or to join the Green Team efforts,  
contact:

Alex Zeineddin at [alex@zeineddins.com](mailto:alex@zeineddins.com).



Thank You!

**Community Engagement –  
Multifaceted Programs, A Key to  
Sustainability Success**





Environmental Services Division

# Our Team

**Nancy Schumm - Environmental Services Division Chief**

**John Nenghabi – Stormwater Program Administrator**

**Christopher Mangine – Stormwater Inspector**

**David Billmyer – Project Manager**

**Robert Deibert – Project Engineer**

**Lisa Bledsoe – Project Engineer**

**Megan Kelsall – Project Engineer**

**Hokuma Karimova – Sustainability Administrator**

**Gita Lekhram – Environmental Specialist**

**Mikayla Jones-Vincent – Watershed Planning Associate**



# 2025 year in review

## City organized programs and events:

- Watershed Planning
  - Volunteer Stream Study
  - Monthly Stakeholder Meetings
- Litter Clean-Ups
- Green Month / Green Awards
- RainScapes Revamp
- Tree Plantings / Big Tree Contest
- Added 3<sup>rd</sup> Compost Site
- Fix-It Fair
- Casey Community Center Learn & Play
- MS4 Permit Updates

## Events we participated in:

- IECA - Demonstration Day
- Arbor day school planting
- Shred It events
- Astra Zeneca Sustainability Summit
- Active Aging Expo
- Oktoberfest
- Sustainable MD
  - 2025 Sustainability Champions!
- Girl Scouts Trail Signs
- Storm Drain Paint Competition



Demonstration Day 2025

# Our Green Month

- **Big Tree Contest Winner**
  - Tulip Poplar with a 235-inch circumference in Bohrer Park
- **Shred-It Events held on: April 12 and September 13, 2025**
  - **Activity Center @ Bohrer Park**
  - **Free shredding services**
  - **Free e-waste collection and disposal**
  - **Food and cash donations to support Gaithersburg**
- **Arbor Day Tree Planting: April 25, 2025**
  - **Tree planting at Summit Hall Elementary School**
- **Going Green Day Festival, April 26th, 2025**
- **Active Aging Expo at Bohrer Park, May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025**



Shred-It Event 2025



# MAC-IECA Demonstration Day

- Hosted by the Mid-Atlantic IECA (international erosion control association) on September 17, 2025
- Contractors, engineers, and local consultants come to our site to watch demonstrations of stormwater management products
- It was the second year of the City hosting the event
- Activities are part of the MS4 permit outreach and education tasks



# Litter Clean-Ups



Number of Litter Clean-Ups

 81

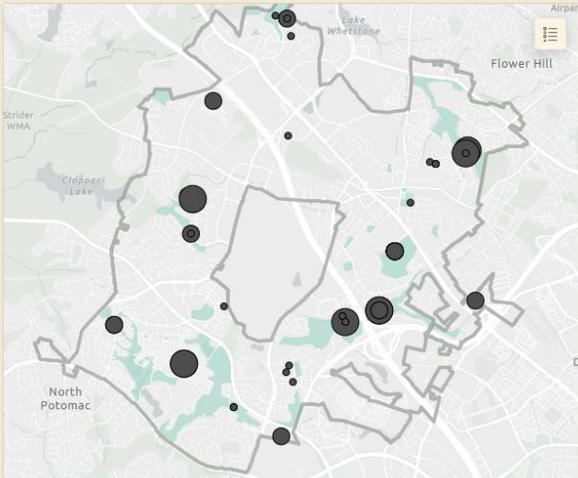
Total volunteers

 1.2k

Total bags requested

 1500

Where our volunteers cleaning up the city?

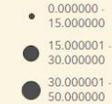


City of Gaithersburg, Maryland, MNCPPC, VGIN, Esri, TomTom, Garmin, SafeGraph, Geo... Powered by Esri

Updated Litter Clean up Map

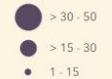
All Litter Clean-ups Merged with 2025 Litter Clean-ups

Number of Participants



All Litter Clean Ups

Number Participants



Parks and Open Space

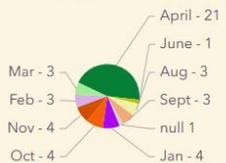
Reported expected volunteers and Requested trash bags

- Volunteers 1 & Trash bags 10 at Malcolm King Park
- Volunteers 35 & Trash bags 125 at Morris Park
- Volunteers 15 & Trash bags 30 at 400 victory farm drive
- Volunteers 10 & Trash bags 20 at 341 Upshire Circle, Washingtonian Woods Park
- Volunteers 6 & Trash bags 3 at Bohrer Park
- Volunteers 6 & Trash bags 4 at Boher Park
- Volunteers 15 & Trash bags 15 at Corner of Fallbrook and Sternwheeler Court
- Volunteers 25 & Trash bags 25 at Windbrooke Road and Windbrooke Circle, Gaithersburg, MD
- Volunteers 40 & Trash bags 20 at Malcolm King Park
- Volunteers 12 & Trash bags 12 at Corner of Sternwheeler Court and Fallbrook Audubon Square
- Volunteers 15 & Trash bags 20 at Malcolm King Park, Bohrer Park, Griffith Park/Old Towne Plaza
- Volunteers 15 & Trash bags 30 at 515 Highland Ridge Road, Gaithersburg, MD
- Volunteers 12 & Trash bags 12 at stream below Robertson Park on down side of Rabbit Rd
- Volunteers 10 & Trash bags 0 at Morris Park, 520 Summit Hall Rd
- Volunteers 24 & Trash bags 8 at Bohrer Park/Gaithersburg High School
- Volunteers 15 & Trash bags 20 at 1440 Wake Foraeast Rd
- Volunteers 40 & Trash bags 30 at Lakelands Clubhouse, 960 Main St, Gaithersburg, MD

Reported number of cleanups per month



Number of cleanups per month



**\* The Muddy Branch Alliance hosts monthly clean-ups!**

# Grants

- Frederick J. Felton Neighborhood Grant Matching Program
  - Who: Neighborhood Associations
  - What: Funding to make improvements in the community including lighting, landscaping, tot lots, entrance features, other physical improvements, or neighborhood events
  - How much: Up to 5000 dollars, open April 1<sup>st</sup> – May 15<sup>th</sup>
  - \* New Change: Only non-invasive plants will be funded. \*



# Grants

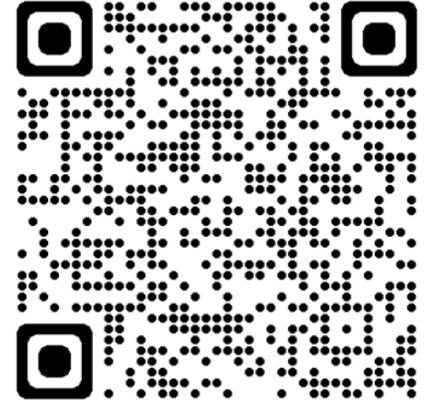
- Funded by Environmental Services  
Managed by Chesapeake Bay Trust

- **When:**

- **May – August**

- **What:**

- **Track 1: Outreach:** Raise public awareness and engagement in the challenges and solutions to restore Gaithersburg's natural resources: local green spaces, parks, streams, rivers, and bays. (\$50,000 – \$75,000)
- **Track 2: Restoration:** Engage people in on-the-ground community-based projects that reduce polluted runoff and benefit communities. (\$100,000)
- **Track 3: Outreach and Restoration:** Combine the goals for both tracks above to achieve increased outcomes. (\$125,000)



# What to Expect in 2026

## Recurring:

- **Fix It Fair** – held on Jan 17, 2026;  
next date to be in June

## New:

- **Stormwater Projects**
- **Continue CBT Tree Grant Planting**
- **Watershed Planning Phase II**
- **Climate Action Planning (CAP)**
- **Compost Expansion**
- **Common Ownership Community (COC) Transfer Program Expansion**
- **City Wide Clean Up – April 11, 2026**
- **Shred It Event – April 18, 2026**



# Mark your calendars!

## Green Month

# April 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4
5	6 Environmental Awards	7	8	9	10	11 City-wide community clean-up
12	13	14	15	16	17	18 Shred-It
19	20	21 Recycling and Compost Lecture	22 Big Tree Hunt Winner Announcement	23	24 Earth Day Tree Planting	25 Discovery Day
26	27	28	29	30		



For more information, please check out our webpage

\*Pollinator garden webinar to be added soon!\*

# Environmental Awards

- **Achievement:**
    - Honors those located in the City that have made a positive impact on environmental improvement
      - Focuses on new initiatives created in 2025
  - **Green Friends of Gaithersburg:**
    - Honors those that have benefitted the City and its residents in 2025
  - **Appreciation:**
    - Honors those located in the City that have made a positive impact on environmental improvement
      - Focuses on programs that were already created
- [2026 deadline](#): February 28, 2026, at 5PM
  - 2026 winners announced on April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2026



# Fix-It Fair – 2026 date TBD

- Hosted by Gaithersburg DPW & The Environmental Affairs Committee
  - January 2026: 46 items fixed and 15 items diagnosed with instructions provided
  - June 2025: 50 items fixed and 13 items diagnosed with instructions provided
    - Registration, information, and sign-up 



# Garbage Reduction and Composting

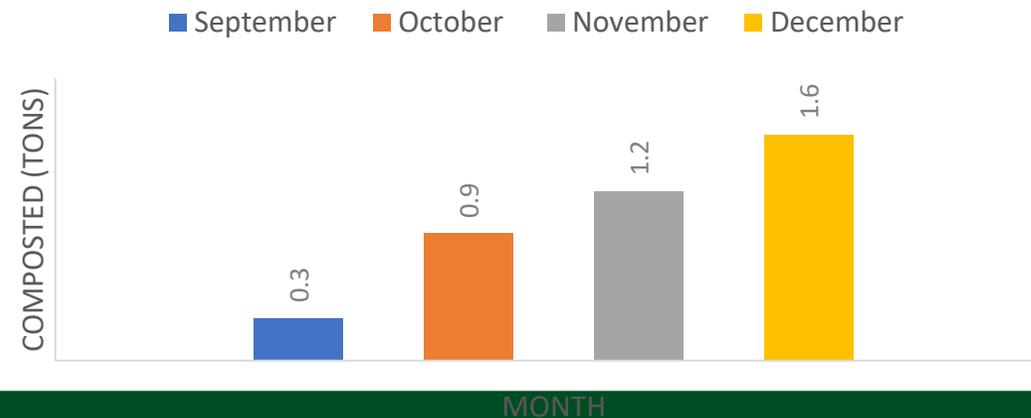
- Gaithersburg opened a third composting site with the help of the Sustainable MD Action Grant!

## Current locations:

- Old Towne
  - Public Works Department
  - Casey Community Center
- 
- Site opened on **October 8, 2025**, with a ribbon cutting event
  - Total organic waste composted in the City for 2025 was **43.03 tons**

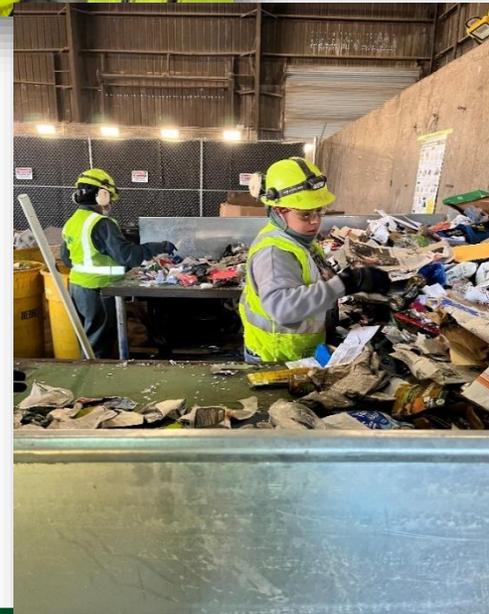


## TONS OF COMPOST COLLECTED AT THE NEW COMPOST SITE



# Garbage Reduction and Composting

- Gaithersburg took part in its annual recycle audit at the Waste Management center in Elkridge, MD
- During five days a total of 1,459 pounds of material was collected and recycled across the City
- Daily averages were about 243 pounds
- Top five materials collected were:
  - Corrugated cardboard
  - Fiber – Old newspaper (ONP) – Sorted Residential Papers and News (SRPN)
  - Glass – Three Mix Glass – 3/8
  - Chipboard-Paperboard (boxboard (cereal boxes, shoe boxes)
  - Plastic – 1 PET – bottles-jars-tubs



# 2025/2026 Tree Planting

- City of Gaithersburg was awarded a \$192,877 grant through the Urban Trees Award Program, which is managed by the Chesapeake Bay Trust (CBT)
- By the end of 2026, 549 trees will be planted across three parks:
  - Diamond Farms Park
  - Victory Farm Park
  - Kelley Park
- Planting occurs in three phases
  - Phase I – Fall 2025 (Diamond Farm Park/ parts of Victory Farm Park)
  - Phase II – Spring 2026 (all of Victory Farm Park)
  - Phase III – Fall 2026 (Kelley Park)



# Sustainable MD: Silver Status

- **Member since:** July 2011
- **Achievements:** 2025 Sustainability Champions!
- **Next recertification:** June 2028
- **Total points earned:** 715
- **Total new actions:** 28
- **One new category:** Transportation



# Climate Action Plan (CAP)

- **Consulting Firm:** Blue Strike Environmental and the UMD Environmental Finance Center
- **Project Launch:** January 2026
- **Deliverable Date:** January 2027
- **Engagement Timeline:**

**BLUE STRIKE**

**OUR EXPERTS**



**Rich Swanson,  
Ph.D.**  
Project Manager



**Cisco Tomasino**  
Associate Project  
Manager



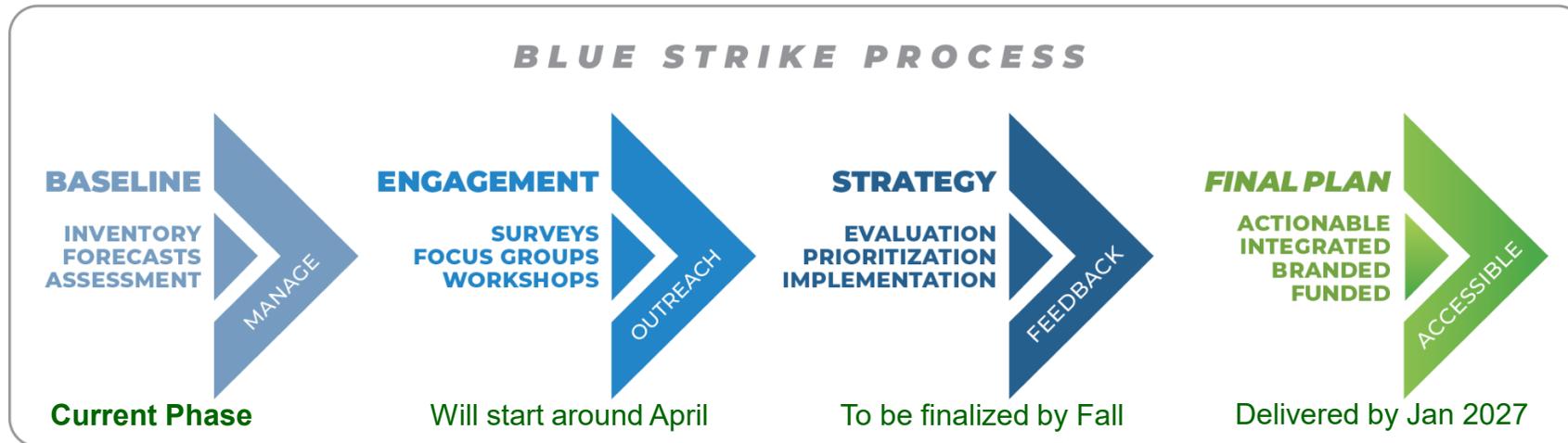
**Brandy Espinola**  
Climate & Sustainability  
Program Director, EFC



**Andrea Green**  
Project Support




PREPARED BY: **bluestrike**



# What is RainScapes Rewards?

Rebate or reimbursement program to incentivize and reduce the installation costs of specific actions that improve water quality or reduce stormwater runoff. Up to \$5,000 per household per homeowner

**Water Collection**  
**\$1 per gallon**



**Min 50 gal**



**Min 250 gal**

**Conservation landscaping**  
**\$5-\$6 per sq. ft**



**Min 200 Sq Ft**

**Soil Testing**  
**\$20 per test**



**Max 2 tests per yr**

*\*Photos shown from Rockville RainScapes program*



# What is RainScapes Rewards?

**\*New Categories of RainScapes for Gaithersburg!**

**Rain Garden**  
**\$10 per Sq. Ft**

**Tree canopy**  
**\$100 small tree**  
**\$150 large tree**

**Pavement removals**  
**\$7 per sq. ft.**

**Porous Pavers**  
**\$14 per sq ft.**



**Min 75 Sq. Ft.**



**Must be native!**



**Min 100 Sq Ft**



**Min 100 Sq Ft**  
**Picture from our program!**

# Watershed Planning Year-in Review



## What happened?

- Contractor assessed 50-miles of streams within the City
- Launched Volunteer Stream Study
- Hosted 10 stakeholder meetings designed to collect feedback and connect with the community
  - Slides and recordings available on our webpage

## What's next?

- Contractor to reassess hotspots
- Continue Volunteer Stream Study for the rest of the watershed area
- Watershed Planning Expo and Phase II Kickoff meeting on February 5, 2026
  - Vote on our our goals, objectives, and strategies and brainstorm sites for upland projects!



Register here:



## Common Ownership Community Program

A city program that provides structural repair and maintenance assistance for Program eligible stormwater management facilities owned by private community organizations.

The program does not cover non-structural repair and maintenance.

Enrollment deadline is June 30, 2026.

Facilities enrolled in the program before the deadline date will not require improvements before maintenance transfer.

## ELIGIBLE FACILITIES

Bioretention  
Detention Structure (Dry Pond)  
Extended Detention Structure (Dry)  
Extended Detention Structure (Wet)  
Infiltration Trench  
Oil Grit Separator  
Flow Splitter  
Underground Storage Unit  
Pocket Wetland  
Retention Pond (Wet Pond)  
Sand Filter  
Underground Filter

# City of Gaithersburg Road Salt Drop-Off Program

- **What is it?**

- This program allows for contractors who treat private spaces, such as driveways and parking lots, a place to dispose excess bagged and loose salt responsibly.

- **Why is limiting road salt important?**

- Limiting road salt is crucial to ensure both the health of our drinking water and wildlife, as excess salt is toxic and contaminates water bodies.
- Successful salt reduction is entirely dependent on the collaboration of municipalities, contractors, residents, and everyone in our community.

- **Does this cost money?**

- No, this program is free for contractors.

- **How do I participate?**

- **Contractors can dispose excess salt with these simple steps:**

- Sign an agreement with the City by contacting [snow@gaitHERSBURGMD.gov](mailto:snow@gaitHERSBURGMD.gov).
- Call Public Works at least 10 minutes before arrival at 301.250.6370.
- Arrive between 7:30 a.m. – 2 p.m. Monday – Friday.
- Upon arrival, you will be escorted to the Salt Barn by staff.



**If you are a resident or organization who hires contractors for treatment, please pass this information along to them. Spreading the word is crucial to ensuring our waterways are clean. Thank you for your participation!**

# Mindful Salting

The City of Gaithersburg is partnered with the Izaak Walton League of America for the Salt Watch Program

- Residents can obtain free testing kits, request online and the Salt Watch team will send them through the mail
- [www.saltwatch.org](http://www.saltwatch.org) to request a kit and for more information



**SALT WATCH**  
IZAAK WALTON LEAGUE OF AMERICA

## Smart Salting

Using the right amount of salt to melt ice for keeping the community safe and water clean.

The infographic features two side-by-side images of a white mug with a blue handle and the Salt Watch logo, filled with salt. The left image shows the mug on a surface heavily covered in salt, with a red circle containing a white 'X' above it. The right image shows the mug on a surface with a thin, even layer of salt, with a green circle containing a white checkmark above it.

Map showing the Washington D.C. region with various colored dots indicating testing locations. Labels include Baltimore, Annapolis, Waldorf, and Washington D.C. Highway markers for 17 and 301 are visible.



# Event: Winter Salt Week Open House

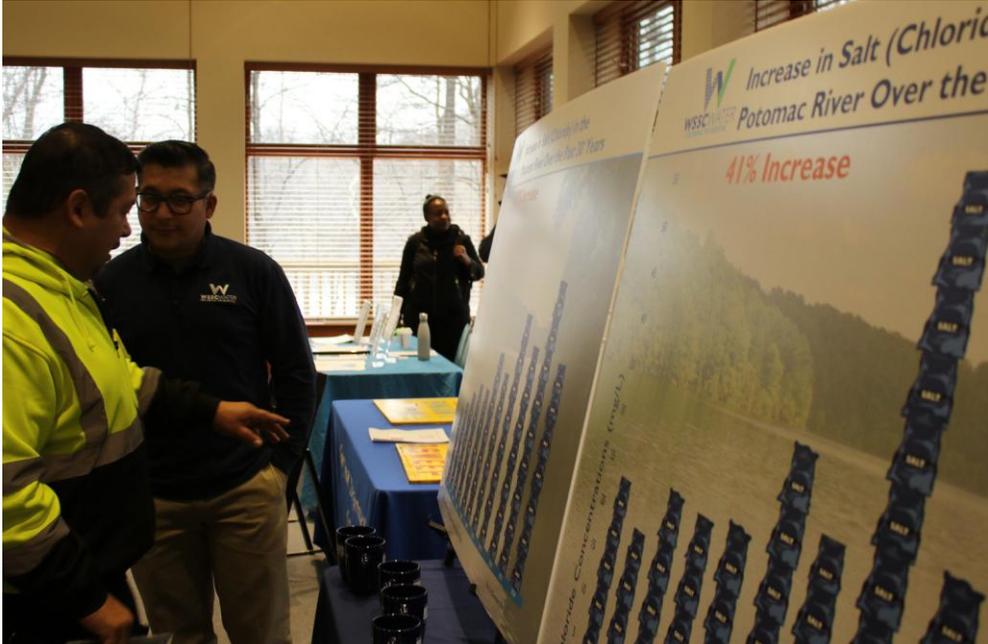
January 31 from 10-1pm

The Izaak Walton League of  
America Headquarters

707 Conservation Lane  
Gaithersburg, MD 20878



REGISTER  
HERE!



# Other Ways to get involved

- **Watershed Planning stakeholder group**
  - **Contribute directly to our watershed plans**
- **Shred-It events and Litter Clean-Ups**
  - **For more information, check out our website**
- **Environmental Affairs Committee**
  - **Looking for six new committee members**

## Environmental Services Website



<https://www.gaithersburgmd.gov/services/environmental-services>

# Missed a QR code?

## Environmental Awards



## Fix-It Fair



## Salt Watch



## Environmental Newsletter



## Watershed Planning QR codes

### Watershed Stakeholder Survey



### Expo Registration



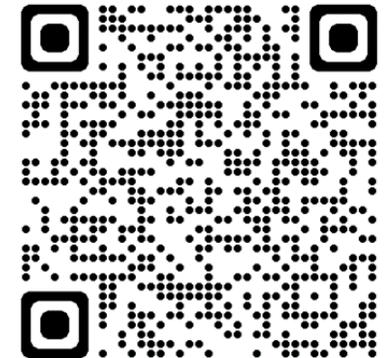
## Road Salt Drop-off



## Frederick Felton Grant



## Chesapeake Bay Trust Grant



Or visit our webpage at <https://www.gaithersburgmd.gov/services/environmental-services>

# Sustainable Maryland Follow Up

- Slides and resources from today's presentation will be shared in the coming days
- SM will continue to be an on-call resource for the 25 HOA Green Teams formed over the last 6 years, and any new ones that are created
- SM will continue to forward grant and technical assistance opportunities to HOA Green Teams
- SM will continue to host an annual Gaithersburg HOA Sustainability Summit



# Sustainable Maryland Discussion/Next Steps

- **Question #1:** What else can SM do to support you (without direct funding)?

*Comments included:*

“Continue to be a resource and provide general guidance.”

“Provide general guidance on grant writing.”

“Through your contacts, ‘matchmaking’ between people to share/build skills, knowledge, and resources.”

“When the Rockville HOAs start their Green Teams, a webpage with them so we can work with them too!”



# Sustainable Maryland Discussion/Next Steps

- **Question #2:** What topics should be focused on at future Summits or other trainings?

## *Comments included:*

“Would love to learn more about permeable pavers!”

“Biomimicry, understanding of existing ecology in areas.”

“Ties to actions with regenerative farming going on in Maryland.”

“How to complete a Tree Inventory.”

“Food forests and edible landscaping.”

“Provide more than one level of information; different folks have different skill levels.”



# Sustainable Maryland Discussion/Next Steps

- **Question #3:** How can the City more directly support your sustainability efforts (given limited staff/resources)?

*Comments included:*

“Provide more transparency re the Felton program, which includes a match.”

“Make it easy to do pilot projects, when zoning or other requirements might prohibit the action.”

“Facilitate coordination between agencies where that's needed.”

“Could the city have a seed library? residents could contribute too!”

“Maybe the question is: what can we do to further support the City?”



# Stay Connected



ENVIRONMENTAL  
FINANCE CENTER

- Contact:
  - Mike Hunninghake  
[mikeh75@umd.edu](mailto:mikeh75@umd.edu)  
(301) 405-7956
  - Natalia Sanchez  
[nsanchez@umd.edu](mailto:nsanchez@umd.edu)  
(301) 405-5421
- Visit the Sustainable Maryland Website
  - <https://sustainablemaryland.com/>
- Join the Sustainable Maryland [Mailing List](#)

